

District: Walthall County

Section: J - Students

Policy Code: JQN - Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Homeless Children and Youth

It shall be the policy of the Walthall School District to comply with all admission policies as authorized under Title VII-B of the McKinney- Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 USC 11431 et.seq.), (McKinney-Vento Act) as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Homeless students in the district will have access to the education and other services needed to ensure that an opportunity is available to meet the same academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

A homeless student will be admitted to the school serving the school zone in which the student is actually living and in accordance with the student's best interest. Students may remain at their school of origin the entire time they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they become permanently housed. The district will ensure that homeless students are not stigmatized nor segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.

The district will follow state procedures to ensure that all homeless youth are identified and accorded equal access to appropriate education and support services. School personnel will refer homeless students to appropriate health care services, including dental and mental health services. The district liaison will assist the school in making such referrals, as necessary.

Parent information will be provided, to the extent practicable, in a language understandable to each parent.

Definitions

The McKinney-Vento Act defines "homeless children and youth" as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes:

- > Children and youth who are temporarily sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, or campgrounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement.
- > Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a private or public place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- > Children and youth who are living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting.
- > Migratory children and youth who are living in a situation described above.